

embodiments the square waves representing V_{stim} can be preceded and followed by other non-DC signaling. If V_{stim} is applied to a row and a signal capacitance is present at a column connected to analog channel 300, the output of charge amplifier 302 can be pulse train 310 centered at V_{ref} with a peak-to-peak (p-p) amplitude in the steady-state condition that is a fraction of the p-p amplitude of V_{stim} , the fraction corresponding to the gain of charge amplifier 302. For example, if V_{stim} includes 18V p-p pulses and the gain of the charge amplifier is 0.1, then the output of the charge amplifier can be 1.8V p-p pulses. This output can be mixed in signal mixer 304 with demodulation waveform V_{dem} 316.

[0038] Because V_{stim} can create undesirable harmonics, especially if formed from square waves, demodulation waveform V_{dem} 316 can be a Gaussian sine wave in an otherwise DC signal that is digitally generated from look-up table (LUT) 312 or other digital logic and synchronized to V_{stim} . In some embodiments, V_{dem} 316 can be tunable in frequency and amplitude by selecting different digital waveforms in LUT 312 or generating the waveforms differently using other digital logic. Signal mixer 304 can demodulate the output of charge amplifier 310 by subtracting V_{dem} 316 from the output to provide better noise rejection. Signal mixer 304 can reject all frequencies outside the passband, which can in one example be about ± 15 kHz around V_{dem} . This noise rejection can be beneficial in noisy environment with many sources of noise, such as 802.11, Bluetooth and the like, all having some characteristic frequency that can interfere with the sensitive (femtofarad level) analog channel 300. Signal mixer 304 is essentially a synchronous rectifier as the frequency of the signal at its inputs is the same, and as a result, signal mixer output 314 is essentially a rectified Gaussian sine wave.

[0039] Offset compensation 306 can then be applied to signal mixer output 314, which can remove the effect of the static C_{sig} , leaving only the effect of ΔC_{sig} appearing as result 324. Offset compensation 306 can be implemented using offset mixer 330. Offset compensation output 322 can be generated by rectifying V_{dem} 316 using rectifier 332, and mixing rectifier output 336 with analog voltage from a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) 320 in offset mixer 330. DAC 320 can generate the analog voltage based on a digital value selected to increase the dynamic range of analog channel 300. Offset compensation output 322, which can be proportional to the analog voltage from DAC 320, can then be subtracted from signal mixer output 314 using subtractor 334, producing subtractor output 338 which can be representative of the change in the capacitance ΔC_{sig} that occurs when a capacitive sensor on the row being stimulated has been touched. Subtractor output 338 is then integrated and can then be converted to a digital value by ADC 308. In some embodiments, integrator and ADC functions are combined and ADC 308 may be an integrating ADC, such as a sigma-delta ADC, which can sum a number of consecutive digital values and average them to generate result 324.

[0040] FIG. 3b is a more detailed view of charge amplifier (a virtual ground amplifier) 302 at the input of an analog channel, and the capacitance that can be contributed by the multi-touch panel (see dashed lines) and seen by the charge amplifier. As mentioned above, there can be an inherent stray capacitance C_{stray} at each pixel on the multi-touch panel. In virtual ground amplifier 302, with the + (noninverting) input tied to V_{ref} , the - (inverting) input is also driven to V_{ref} , and a DC operating point is established. Therefore, regardless of how much C_{sig} is present, the - input is always driven to V_{ref} .

Because of the characteristics of virtual ground amplifier 302, any charge Q_{stray} that is stored in C_{stray} is constant, because the voltage across C_{stray} is kept constant by the charge amplifier. Therefore, no matter how much stray capacitance C_{stray} is added to the - input, the net charge into C_{stray} will always be zero. Therefore the input charge $Q_{sig_sense} = (C_{sig} - \Delta C_{sig_sense})V_{stim}$ is zero when the corresponding row is kept at DC and is purely a function of C_{sig} and V_{stim} when the corresponding row is stimulated. In either case, because there is not net charge into C_{stray} , the stray capacitance is rejected and essentially drops out of any equations. Thus, even with a hand over the multi-touch panel, although C_{stray} can increase, the output will be unaffected by the change in C_{stray} .

[0041] The gain of virtual ground amplifier 302 is usually small (e.g. 0.1) and is equivalent to the ratio of C_{sig} (e.g. 2 pF) and feedback capacitor C_{fb} (e.g. 20 pF). The adjustable feedback capacitor C_{fb} converts the charge Q_{sig} to the voltage V_{out} . Therefore, the output V_{out} of virtual ground amplifier 302 is a voltage that is equivalent to the ratio of $-C_{sig}/C_{fb}$ multiplied by V_{stim} referenced to V_{ref} . The high voltage V_{stim} pulses can therefore appear at the output of virtual ground amplifier 302 as much smaller pulses having an amplitude identified by reference character 326. However, when a finger is present, the amplitude of the output can be reduced as identified by reference character 328, because the signal capacitance is reduced by ΔC_{sig} .

[0042] FIG. 3c illustrates an exemplary V_{stim} signal with multiple pulse trains each having a fixed number of pulses, each pulse train having a different frequency (e.g. 140 kHz, 200 kHz, and 260 kHz). With multiple pulse trains at different frequencies, one or more results can be obtained at each frequency. If a static interferer is present at a particular frequency, the results at that frequency can be corrupted as compared to the results obtained at the other two frequencies, and those results can be eliminated. The results at the remaining two frequencies can be averaged to compute the result.

[0043] The multiple frequencies may be applied in different ways to the multi-touch panel. In some embodiments, N columns can be connected to one analog channel via N:1 demultiplexer. A given row would then have to be stimulated N times to acquire C_{sig} for all columns and then repeated for the other two frequencies. This has the advantage that fewer channels are needed but it takes longer to process an image. In other embodiments, one channel can be allotted for each column. A given row only has to be stimulated once to acquire C_{sig} for all columns and then repeated for the other two frequencies. This arrangement has the advantage that it is faster than the previous arrangement described earlier; however, it takes more dedicated channels, which may be necessary for large multi-touch panels and when communications are USB, which could drop packets if too slow. After an entire "image" is captured, it can be processed. In further embodiments, multiple stimuli (scan circuits) can be applied to different rows at the same time to speed up the process. The feedback capacitance C_{fb} and offset can also be programmable.

[0044] Embodiments of this invention relate to the use of one or more proximity sensors in combination with one or more touch sensors in a multi-touch panel to detect the presence of a finger, body part or other object and control or trigger one or more functions in accordance with an "image" of touch provided by the sensor outputs. In some embodiments, one or more infrared (IR) proximity sensors or other